

## Department of Justice U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of Texas

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE APRIL 10, 2006 WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/TXS JOHN YEMBRICK PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE (713) 567-9388

## FORMER FT BEND SCHOOL TEACHER SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR USING INTERNET IN ATTEMPT TO ENTICE MINOR

HOUSTON, TX – Nemehiah Joseph Landes, 31, a former Ft. Bend ISD elementary school teacher, was sentenced to prison today for using his home computer and the Internet in his attempt to entice a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct. Landes was sentenced to five years in federal prison, without parole, and fined \$2,500, according to United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle. United States District Judge Kenneth Hoyt imposed the sentence and further ordered that the prison term be followed by 10 years of supervised release, during which Landes will be monitored by a U.S. Probation Officer, and prohibited from using the Internet and working or living near children under age 18.

Landes, who initially entered a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity, changed his plea to guilty on November 1, 2005, after a jury was selected and testimony had begun. Landes admitted that on February 6, 2004, while on the Internet, he chatted with a 11-year-old girl about engaging in sexually explicit activity with him and set up a time and place for her to meet him that day. Even though Landes did not know he was actually chatting with a U.S. Secret Service agent posing as the 11-year-old girl, he still failed to arrive at the meeting place, a Heights area park, as arranged.

Three days later, on February. 9, 2004, Landes again chatted with the agent/11-year-old girl about meeting to do the sexual things they had previously talked about. He again made arrangements to meet the agent/11-year-old at the same park. When he arrived at the park early, he waited around until about 5:45 p.m.. When Landes approached a female undercover agent situated in the park as a decoy, he was arrested by investigating agents and charged with attempted enticement of a minor.

Investigating agents searched Landes' apartment in Richmond, Texas, which resulted in the seizure of Landes' laptop computer. A forensic examination of the computer led to the discovery of approximately 100 images of child pornography, largely comprised of prepubescent girls posed lasciviously.

Landes has remained in jail since his arrest February 9, 2004.

The charges in this case are the result of an investigation conducted by the United States Secret Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Martha Minnis.